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WALTHAM



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W A L T H A M

THE WALTHAM NUMBER of a Series devoted to the illustration of certain of the cities and towns adjacent to the City of Boston and the presentation, in brief accompanying text, of some suggestive facts concerning their advantages and development.



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1129
The Soldiers' Monument and a little of the Common.



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The City of Waltham

OCUPYING a territory naturally well adapted to meet requirements for residences and so developed as to be no less well suited to serve as locations for large or small industrial enterprises, the City of Waltham is in Middlesex County, about ten miles from Boston and a little north of a line running due west from the larger city. The more thickly settled parts of Waltham are near its southern boundary; here, also, and within a short distance of the Charles, in its course of three miles or so through the city, are the im-

portant business houses and the plants of the manufacturing establishments for which Waltham has become so notably distinguished. Here the characteristics are distinctly urban and the residents enjoy the conveniences and facilities of a well equipped modern city. To the north and west of this part of Waltham, and within its geographical limits of fourteen square miles, is a large area in which more rural conditions prevail. Here, in a pleasant land made easily accessible by good roads and modern methods of transportation many



The City Hall.

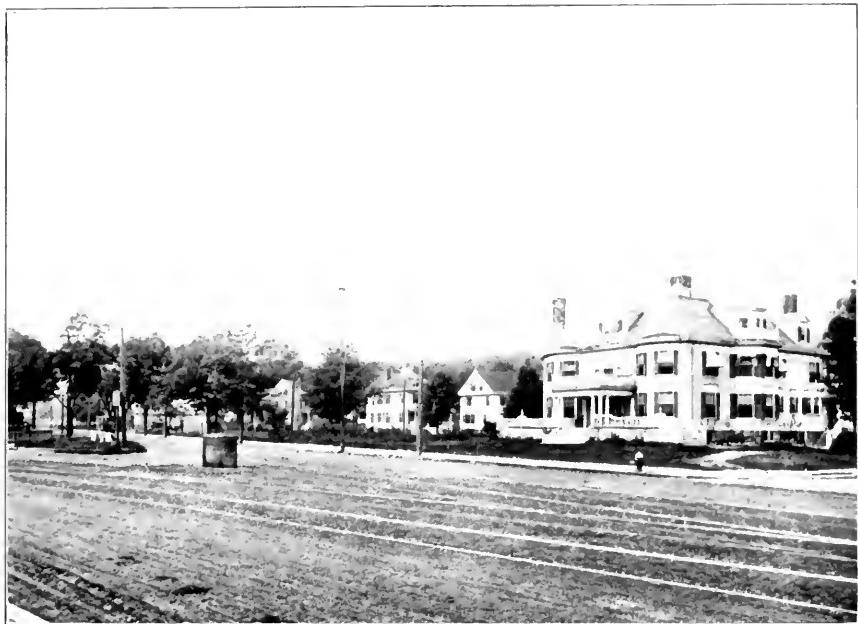


The Railroad Station from the Common, Waltham.

homes have been established, as others may be, in which all the delights of country life, its freedom and quiet, are all obtainable while yet command of conveniences need not be surrendered.

There is much attractive scenery in Waltham and a pleasant diversity of the physical aspect. The Charles River to which with its water power Waltham doubtless owes the early beginning of its later remarkable industrial development, is an attractive feature of the varying landscape. The altitudes attained within the town differ greatly. The Charles on its way from Waltham to the harbor has only twenty-two feet to fall to reach the level of tidal waters. There are several high hills and

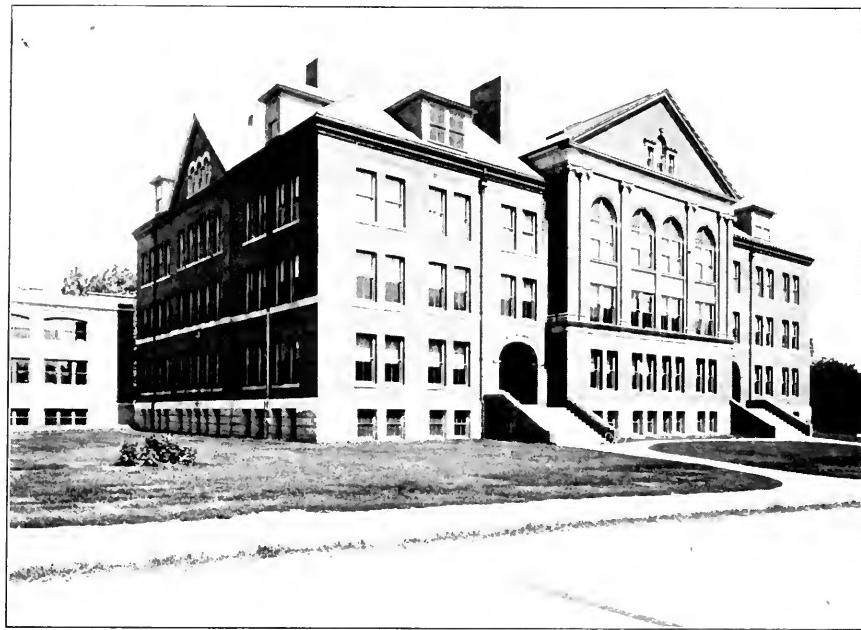
more numerous slighter elevations while the more elevated of the two summits of Prospect Hill rises to about four hundred and eighty feet. Prospect Hill is now with its immediate surroundings a part of the park system of Waltham and so the summit, with its commanding and appreciated view, is reserved for the rightful continued enjoyment of the citizens. The view in its wide extent includes such important features as Monadnock, the Kidder and Lyndeboro mountains, many unnamed hills in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, and Kearsarge seventy-five miles distant. Within the beautiful prospect are a wide range of cultivated farming land, thirty or forty towns in ad-



Banks Square, named in honor of General N. P. Banks, a former resident of Waltham.



The Mercantile Building at the Corner of Moody and Main Streets.



The High School Building at Waltham.



Building of the Waltham National Bank.

dition to Boston with its domes and spires, the more important of the light-houses of Boston Harbor and something of the ocean with its rock-bound shores. The nearer view includes the plain, and pleasant fields, of Waltham with the surrounding hills, its woodland areas and its water courses, many of its comfortable homes and its productive factories.

In its earlier years a part of Watertown, now its immediate neighbor on the east, Waltham became an incorporated town in 1738 when its population was approximately five hundred.

Until toward the middle of the nineteenth century the increase in the population was moderate though normal; but then, and after the later establishment here of the industry which has earned for Waltham the widely-known appellation, "The Watch City," the growth in number of inhabitants has been marked and rapid. By 1882 it was apparent that Waltham had attained the population necessary to enable it to become a city of the Commonwealth. The proposition that it should surrender,



St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church

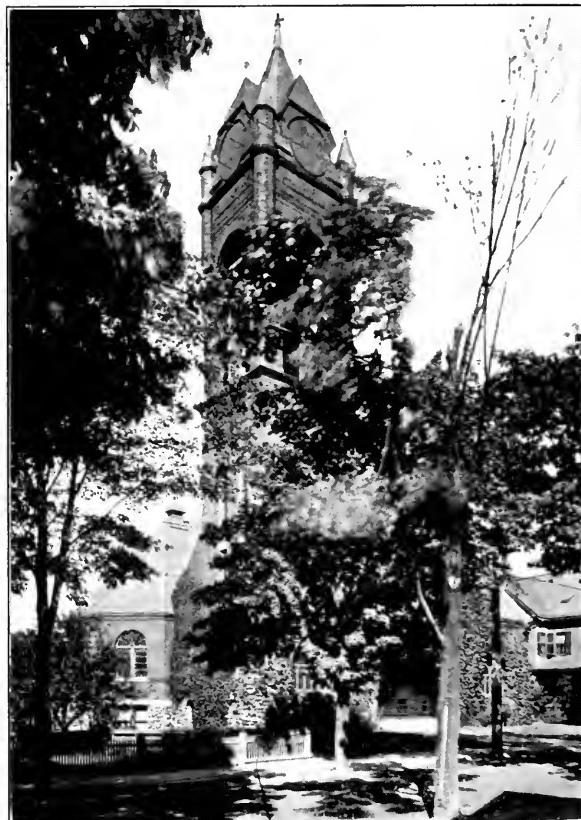
however, its old democratic form of town government did not prove immediately acceptable. An agitation ensued which lasted for two years or so. The matter was discussed freely and debated ably. In time the views of those advocating a city government and the administration of affairs by elected officers and departments of single heads prevailed.

The act to make Waltham a city passed the Legislature June 2d, 1884. This was accepted, or confirmed, in a town meeting of July

16, 1884, and the first officials of the newly created city assumed their duties on the first of January, 1885. What might have happened had Waltham remained a town may be regarded as a problem of little present interest; that, as a city, it has grown and prospered mightily is known. A census ordered by the town in the early months of 1884 showed that the inhabitants numbered something over fourteen thousand. The population in 1905 as ascertained by the State census of that year was 26,239, representing an increase of nearly

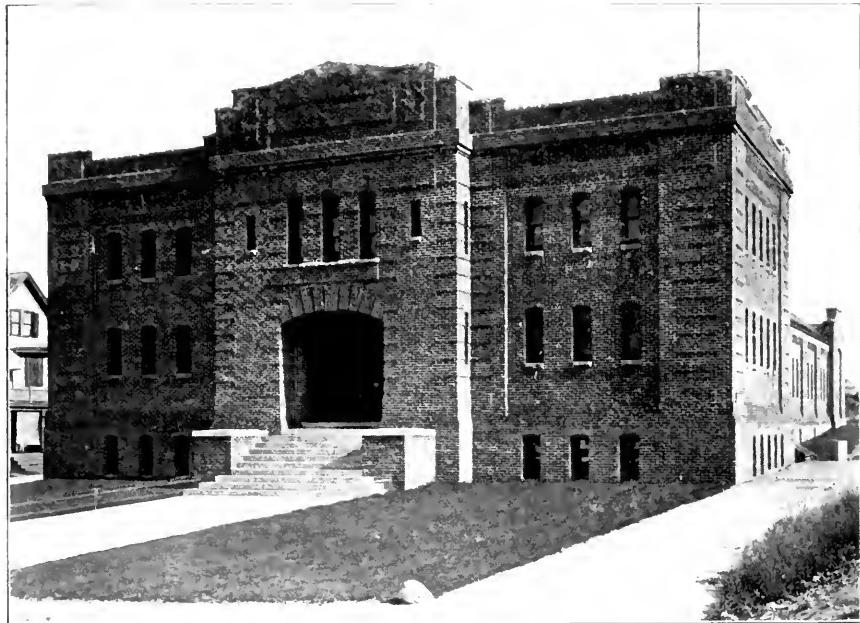
twenty-six per cent during the preceding ten year period. In material prosperity the city has advanced with its growth in population. The assessed valuation as reported for 1908 amounted to nearly twenty-five million dollars—on real estate \$18,541,300.00; on personal estate \$6,369,360.00.

Waltham was once an important stopping place on the Sudbury Road, one of the main lines of travel from Boston to the interior and western towns in the Colony and the young State; but by 1843



Beth Eden Baptist Church, Maple Street.

the Fitchburg Railroad was built as far as Waltham and to this point the Watertown Branch was extended in 1853. Now, Waltham is a station on both the Fitchburg and the Southern Division of the Boston and Maine Railroad, ten miles by rail from Boston. Over the Fitchburg Division there are forty-seven trains out from Boston daily and fifty-two in from Waltham, while on Sundays there are eighteen and twenty respectively. The single fare is seventeen cents; twelve rides cost \$1.30



The Armory, Quarters of Company F, Fifth Regiment, M. V. M



Building of the Waltham Savings Bank.



Some of the Homes on Harris Street, Waltham.

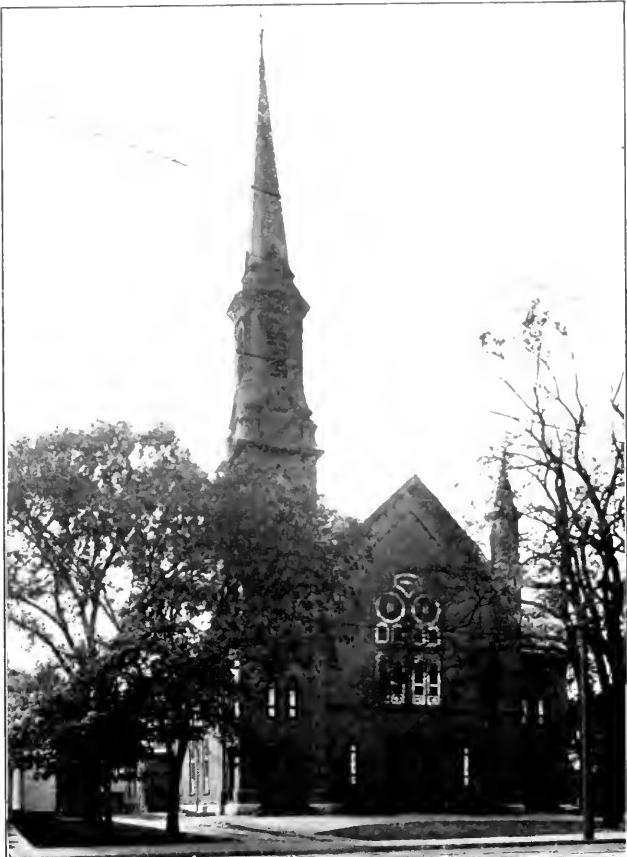


Station of the Waltham Fire Department on Moody Street.

and twenty-five \$2.44. The average running time is thirty-one minutes. Over the Southern Division there are eleven trains from Boston daily, twelve in from Waltham and on Sundays six in each direction. To Waltham Highlands, also on the Southern Division, eleven miles by rail, there are eight trains from and to Boston daily, with four out and three in on Sundays. Besides the easy

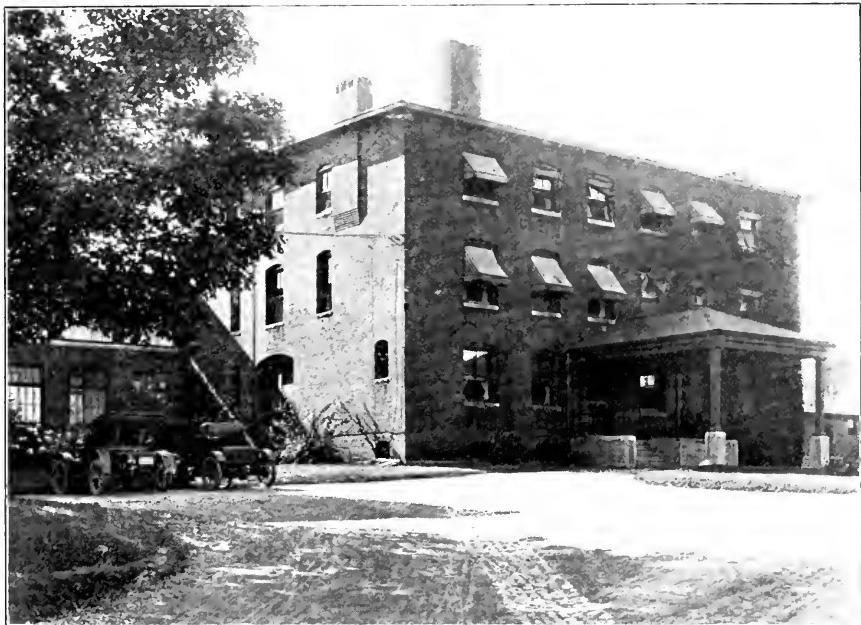
c o m m u n i -
cation afforded by these frequently running trains Waltham is connected by electric railways with Newton and with Watertown and through either of these places again with Boston; with Lexington and so with Lowell and places between. The pleasant journey to Waltham from Boston by the cars on the electric railway requires usually fifty-four minutes and the fare is ten cents.

In Waltham is well met the modern demand for neighborhood con-

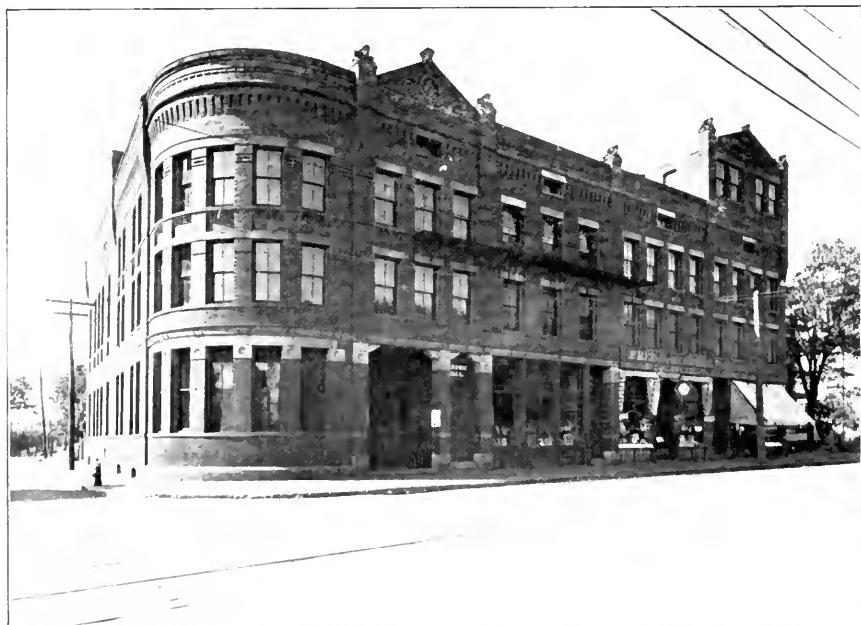


The First Congregational Church, Waltham.

veniences and public utilities of consequence. In the thoroughfares near the center of the city are numerous business buildings in which are stores of various kinds in which all household supplies and personal necessities are obtainable. In the business buildings which in design, size and construction would be creditable structures in any city are the offices of many individuals or corporations devoted to important undertakings while professional services of any nature



A little of the Waltham Hospital.



In the Welsh Building are the Public Library, Stores and Masonic Hall.

are within proper command. Local banking privileges are extended by the Waltham National Bank, by the Waltham Savings Bank, by the Waltham Trust Company and the Waltham Cooperative Bank. Two daily newspapers are supported in Waltham and these provide the local as well as other news and due comment.

Water excellent in quality and generous in supply is made available throughout the city by the city water works and the comprehensive distributing system, comprising fifty-four miles of mains and over forty-seven miles of service pipe. The source of supply is a filter basin near the banks of the Charles at the Weston line and surrounded by a reservation of sufficient acreage to secure protection from contamination. The water is pumped to a concrete tower, covered in accordance with the most approved modern practice to prevent the growth



The First Baptist Church, Waltham.

of water plants or the entrance of foreign matters. This tower, or reservoir, is itself forty feet high and stands on a hill in the southwestern part of the city and gravity secures adequate pressure. The sewer system of Waltham is also commendable and adequate. It protects all the more populated parts of the city and there are nearly forty-two miles of sewer mains. The sewage is disposed of through the South Metropolitan District Sewer into Boston Harbor. Due provision has been made for the separate drainage of surface water. Illuminating gas was introduced in Waltham over half a cen-



Attractive Dwellings on Main Street.



Christ Church, Protestant Episcopal, Waltham.



The First Parish Church (Congregational Unitarian) Waltham.



Pleasant Residences along Appleton Street.

tury ago and gas for illumination and cooking is now supplied by the Newton and Watertown Gas Light Company.

The streets of Waltham are lighted until one o'clock every night under a three year contract with The Edison Electric Illuminating Company. This company also furnishes electricity for the illumination of residential and commercial structures, as well as for power, at its standard rates as established throughout the thirty-three cities and towns it supplies with the electric current. The service of the company is continuous every hour during every day of the year.

The fire department of Waltham is efficient with horse drawn apparatus consisting of two steam fire

engines, one chemical engine, one ladder truck, one aerial ladder truck, one combination hose and chemical wagon, four hose wagons, with supply vehicles and exercise wagons. The apparatus is suitably equipped and hand chemical extinguishers are carried. There are over four hundred fire service hydrants connected with the water system.

Good order in Waltham is preserved by an adequate police force under capable direction and ample protection is given person and property. The nearly sixty-two miles of public streets and roads, largely macadam or gravel, are maintained in good order while there are over fifteen miles of private streets. Such other general



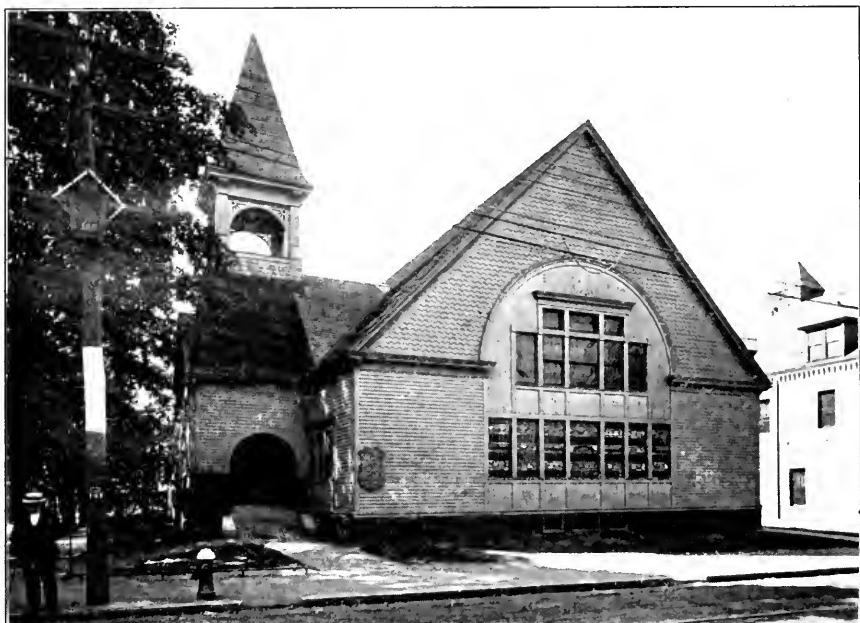
Building Containing the Post Office as well as Stores and Offices.



The Universalist Church of Our Saviour, Waltham.



Police Headquarters and Police Stables.



The Immanuel Methodist Episcopal Church, Moody Street.



The Lawrence Block, Another Important Business Building.



Homes along Wellington Street, Waltham.

services as the watering of these streets, the removal of ashes and refuse, the care of the poor, the inspection of animals, buildings and milk, proceed under the supervision of the proper city departments. The post office has four sub-stations while satisfactory collection and carrier services are rendered.

The Waltham Hospital was incorporated in 1885 and the hospital was opened the first of October, 1887; but in 1889 the city leased to the corporation composed of public spirited and generous donors of the necessary funds a tract of land for new buildings for ninety-nine years at an annual rental of one dollar. The first of the new structures, the present administration building, was dedicated in April of

1892, and other buildings or pavilions have followed as other and later gifts have made possible their erection. The hospital is enabled to carry on its work by private subscriptions; but the city is permitted to send certain cases of its sick poor there, and this it does without causing their pauperization.

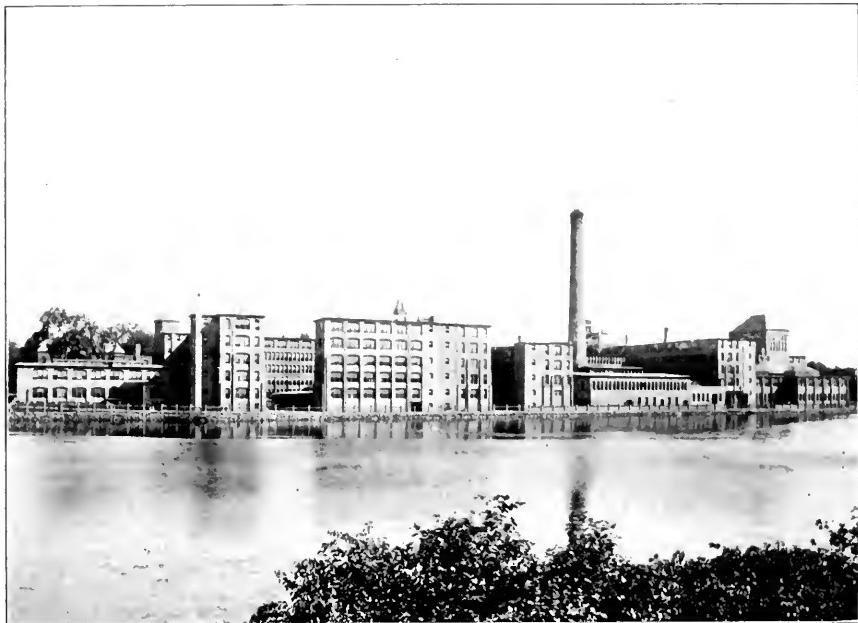
The Public Library, based upon earlier institutions, was organized as a free public library in 1865. It is the property of the city and its fine collection of well selected books is contained in proper rooms in the Welch Building on Moody Street, where also are the reading rooms and the distributing centres for the large circulation of loanable books. A sum of sixty thousand dollars has been bequeathed



St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Waltham.



The Locke Building, a New Business Structure on Moody Street.



The Plant of the Waltham Watch Company as Seen from Across the River.

to the city for the acquisition of a site and the erection of a suitable library building and this will be added to the advantages and attractions of Waltham as soon as may be after the bequest becomes available.

There are seventy-four public schools in Waltham, including one High School, as reported by the State Board of Education. The preparation of "new members to bear their part in society" is carried on in sixteen public school buildings under the direction of the School Committee and the Superintendent. In these schools the educational standard is maintained which enables the public schools of Waltham to share worthily the wide and good repute of the schools of the Commonwealth. Moreover,

due care of the well being of the pupils is exercised; these have the benefit of physical training and medical inspection also has been introduced. An industrial evening school has been established and is attended by those pursuing their necessary labors throughout the working hours of the day and other evening schools are conducted. There is also in Waltham a well attended parochial school.

From the one church existing at the time of the incorporation of Waltham as a town, the places of worship have increased until they number fifteen. Besides the First Parish Congregational (Unitarian) Church, there are two Baptist churches, two Roman Catholic, one Congregational, two Episcopal, two Methodist Episcopal, while



A Part of the Mills of the Boston Manufacturing Company, Waltham.

there are edifices of the Presbyterian, the Swedenborgian, the Swedish Lutheran, Swedish Congregational and the Universalist Societies.

Fraternal organizations of national importance and membership are well represented in Waltham. Associations of employees of the large industrial establishments and other associations connected with the various churches, and several clubs exist for mutual betterment, or to promote neighborliness, while some include among their aims the welcome and introduction of new comers strange to the city and its ways and residents. The Waltham Canoe Club has its well appointed club house at Woerd Avenue on the banks of the Charles River. In the Armory on Sharon Street are

the quarters of Company F, Fifth Regiment M. V. M.

While Waltham is so well equipped in so many other ways unusual facilities for out door enjoyment and recreation are presented. There are several lakes or ponds and many natural features of diverse interest while the long good roads which run throughout the city and often in picturesque surroundings of varied beauty invite driving, automobiling and walking. Within the limits of the city and under the supervision of the Metropolitan Park Commission are nearly forty-three acres of the Beaver Brook Reservation with its stately trees, its pleasant places, and its ponds which are also popular skating places every winter. There are also here over thirty-eight acres



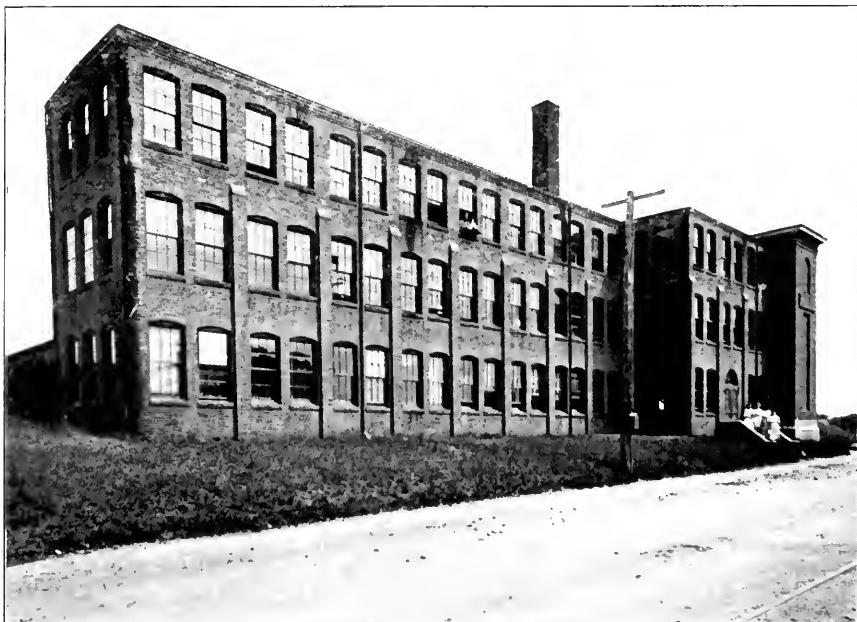
Works of The E. Howard Watch Company, Waltham.



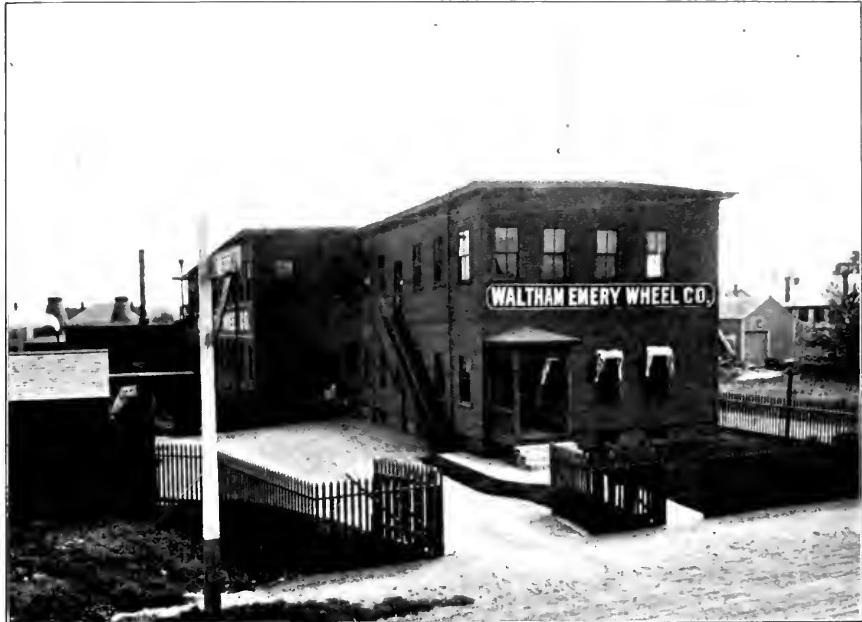
Factory of the American Watch Tool Company.



Factory of B. C. Ames & Company with that of the American Knitting Company
in the distance.



Works of the O'Hara Waltham Dial Company.



Plant of the Waltham Emery Wheel Company.

of the Charles River Reservation with its excellent driveways commanding views of the beautiful stream and its shores. The city maintains a park of one hundred and thirty-seven acres on and about Prospect Hill with its summit so high that it is believed to be the first land sighted by mariners as they enter Boston Harbor. The Common comprises over seven acres and there are many open squares or breathing places, while over twenty-five and a half acres are devoted to the purposes of three public playgrounds—one on the old bicycle park, one on Elm Street and one on Willow Street. In these are fields for base-ball and foot-ball games and gymnastic apparatus for outdoor athletic exer-

cises under due and competent directions. On the Charles River, which otherwise provides its continued and varied enjoyments, the city maintains a popular public bath house.

The more intimately Waltham is known and the more carefully are considered its advantages the more wisely chosen will seem the words of the Historian of the Day at the celebration in June, 1909, of the twenty-fifth year of city existence, when he spoke of Waltham as "ideal in its location, metropolitan enough for those who enjoy urban life and suburban enough for those who enjoy the freedom of the country."

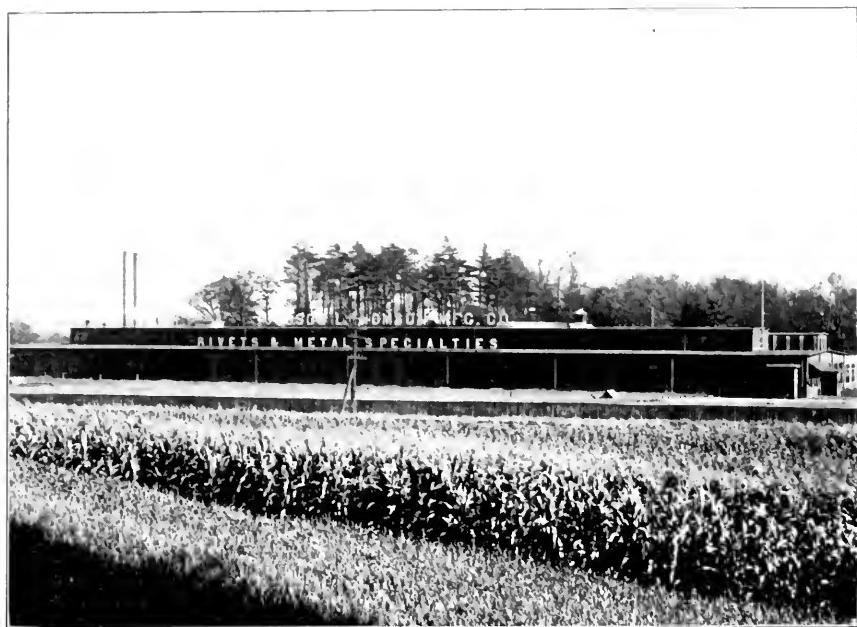
For many years after the settlement of the territory of Waltham

the pursuits of its inhabitants were, of course, mainly agricultural, but the available water power afforded by the Charles led to the early establishment of mills, and in 1813 the Boston Manufacturing Company secured a mill which had been used to produce paper and began the manufacture of cotton goods by the then newly-invented power loom. In 1849 Aaron L. Dennison interested others in a project to manufacture watches of interchangeable parts by machinery, and the enterprise was started in Roxbury as the American Horologe Company, becoming later the Warren Watch Company, and then the Boston Watch Company. A change of location was thought desirable and after considerable investiga-

tion Dennison chose Waltham partly because of its water power and its accessible location and partly because it presented opportunities for the employes of the Company to make for themselves comfortable homes in suitable and attractive surroundings. The construction was begun in 1854 of the buildings of a company destined to assume a foremost place among the industries of the world and to become an important factor in the further and continued development of Waltham. In the vicissitudes of the early years there were several changes in the principal ownership as well as in the title of the Company; but in due time its present name of The Waltham Watch Company was adopted. This Com-



Part of the Plant of the Davis & Farnum Manufacturing Company.



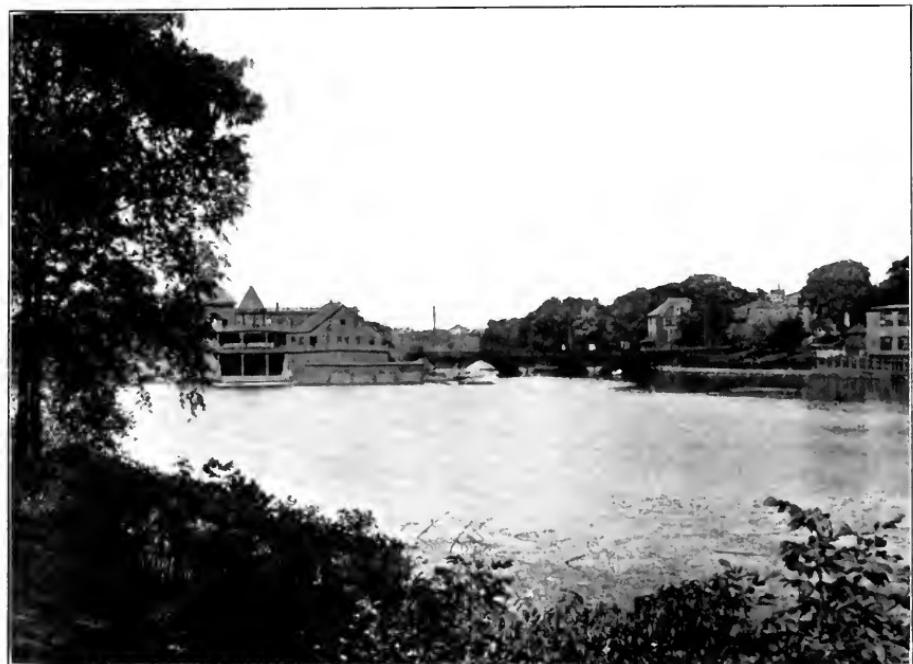
Works of the Judson L. Thomson Manufacturing Company.

pany gives employment to many of the work people of Waltham; but many other manufacturing establishments have been attracted to Waltham and a list of the important of these will show the variety of industrial undertakings carried on here and indicate the different kinds of employment provided in this busy and progressive city. The list follows: The American Knitting Company; American Watch Tool Company; B. C. Ames and Company, tools and Machinery; George J. Barker Lumber Company; The Boston Manufacturing Company, cotton goods; Davis and Farnum Manufacturing Company, iron and brass founders; E. Howard Watch Company; C. H. Metz Company, auto-

mobiles; New England Paper Bag Company; O'Hara Waltham Dial Company, various enameled articles as well as dials; Stark Tool Company; Superior Corundum Tool Company; Judson L. Thomson Manufacturing Company, rivets; Waltham Bleachery and Dye Works; Waltham Clock Company; Waltham Emery Wheel Company; Waltham Foundry Company, babbitt metal; Waltham Machine Works, watch and clock tools; Waltham Screw Company; the Waltham Watch Company.

From the latest published State Report on the Statistics of Labor it appears that in 1906 the capital devoted to production in Waltham amounted to \$9,080,426.00, while nearly three and one-half

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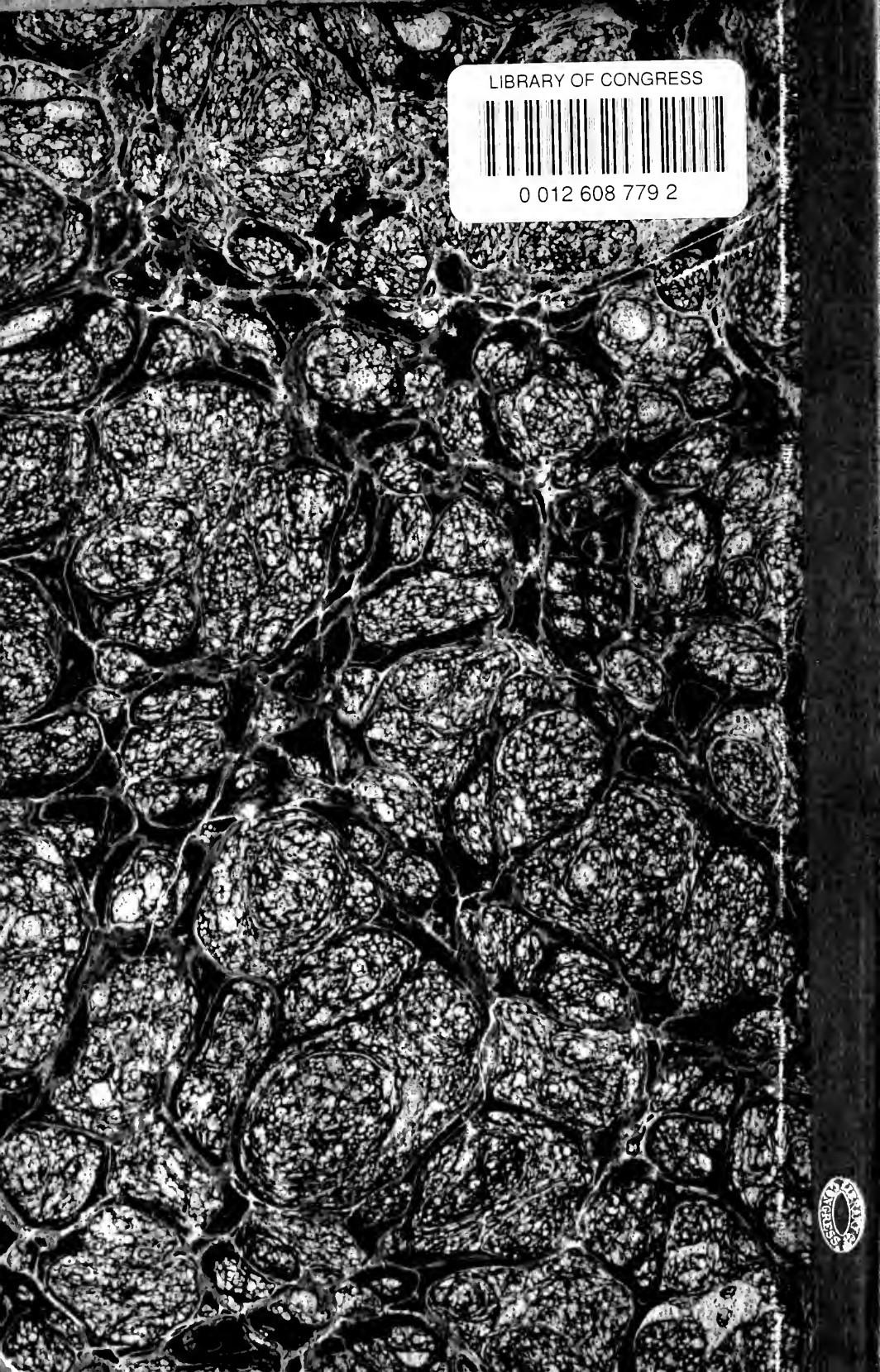


Prospect Street Bridge and Surroundings on the Charles in Waltham.

million dollars were paid to an average number of 6,123 wage earners employed. In the same year, 1906, the value of goods made amounted to \$7,747,095.00, an increase of more than eight per cent over the production of the year before.

Available for the needs of other manufacturers and quite suitable as convenient locations for factories or commercial structures there is a large area of land near the lines of the railroad. The freight facilities afforded by the railroads are adequate and as satisfactory as are those for the transportation of passengers. The billing point is Boston. The services of many work people, some highly skilled, could be obtained from those al-

ready living in the city or in its immediate neighborhood. Furthermore, operatives newly coming here will find opportunities to make their homes in surroundings and under conditions which should tend to promote their content and happiness. The citizens in general extend their help and support to the well directed efforts of the officials to preserve approved conditions in the city and to advance its interests. The Business Men's Association actively pursues the same end and to the Secretary of the Association may be addressed inquiries as to sites for factories or locations for dwellings or requests for information concerning any of the features or advantages of the city.



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